

Worksheet



CONTAINER AND PRICING CHOICES

Use this worksheet to compare the advantages and disadvantages of the different container and pricing choices and select the best system for your program.

Review the characteristics of the different container and pricing combinations available and make a determination of how each option would work in your town:

- Bags or tags/stickers that are sold at retail stores or municipal offices;
- Cans used with a “pay as you go” pricing system (under which residents are billed based on the number and size of cans they set out for collection);
- Cans used with a subscription system.

A rate system often used in combination with any of the container and pricing choices is a two-tiered system, which uses a per-container fee for variable MSW costs while retaining a monthly flat collection charge for fixed MSW costs. This helps prevent revenue fluctuations.

After analyzing the advantages and disadvantages of the different systems, answer the three questions and make a preliminary system choice. Be sure to consider the overall program goals you established in Worksheet # 1 when making this choice.

Worksheet 4 (Continued)

Part A: Bag Systems

System	Advantage/Disadvantage
Bag Systems	Advantages
	• Provides stronger waste reduction incentive than can system
	• No billing system needed, so accounting costs are lower
	• Residents find bag systems convenient and easy to understand
	• Lower start-up and implementation costs than can systems
	• Faster, more efficient collection than cans
	• Easy to monitor for compliance
	• Easy to adapt for bulky item collections
	Disadvantages
	• Can lead to a greater revenue uncertainty than subscription can systems
	• System for storing and distributing bags must be developed
	• Residents might find purchasing and storing bags inconvenient
	• Often incompatible with automated/semiautomated equipment
	• Animals can tear bags and bags can break during lifting (NOTE: bags can still be placed inside trash containers if residents already use them)

1. A bag system would work in our town because:
2. The disadvantages of a bag system to our town would be:
3. Based on this evaluation of the pros and cons, a bag system is/is not the best choice for our town.

Is best choice _____ Is not best choice _____

Worksheet 4 (Continued)

Part B: Tags or Sticker Systems

System	Advantage/Disadvantage
Tags or Stickers	Advantage
	• Provides stronger waste reduction incentive than can systems
	• No billing system needed, so accounting costs are lower
	• Residents find tag/sticker systems convenient and easy to understand
	• Lower start-up and implementation costs than can systems
	• Cost of purchasing tags/stickers is less than bags
	• Easily adapted for different size containers
	• Easily adapted for bulky item collections
	Disadvantages
	• Can lead to a greater revenue uncertainty than subscription can systems
	• Administration program required to purchase tags/stickers and make them available to residents in stores and through the municipality
	• Residents might find purchasing tags/stickers inconvenient
	• Tags/stickers can fall off in rainy or cold weather or be stolen
	• Tags/stickers can sometimes be counterfeited
	• Municipality must educate community about size limits and collection crews must monitor size-limit compliance

1. A tag system would work in our town because:
2. The disadvantages of a tag system to our town would be:
3. Based on this evaluation of the pros and cons, a tag system is/is not the best choice for our town.

Is best choice _____ Is not best choice _____

Worksheet 4 (Continued)

Part C: Can Systems (Pay-As-You-Go)

System	Advantage/Disadvantage
Cans (Pay-As-You-Go)	Advantages
	• Residents have the flexibility to set out as few or as many containers needed each week
	• Cans are reusable and prevent animals from scattering waste
	• Cans can work with automated/semi-automated collection systems
	Disadvantage
	• Greater revenue uncertainty than subscription can systems
	• System does not provide a significant waste reduction incentive.
	• Complex tracking and billing system needed to count set-outs at each stop to bill accordingly
	• Billing system creates lag time between collecting waste and receiving payment for the service
	• Greater start-up costs if purchase, inventory and distribution of cans is required
	• Collection time greater than with bag systems
	• Alternative system needed for collection of bulky items

1. A can pay-as-you-go system would work in our town because:
2. The disadvantages of a can pay-as-you go system to our town would be:
3. Based on this evaluation of the pros and cons, a can pay-as-you-go system is/is not the best choice for our town.

Is best choice _____ Is not best choice _____

Worksheet #4 (Continued)

Part D: Can Systems (Subscription)

System	Advantage/Disadvantage
Cans (Subscription)	Advantage
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revenues are stable and easy to forecast
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simplified collection process for collection crews
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cans are reusable and prevent animals from scattering waste
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cans can work with automated/semi-automated collection systems
	Disadvantages
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduces waste reduction incentive, since residents have no incentive to reduce waste below their minimum service level
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complex tracking and billing system needed to track residents' subscription level and bill accordingly
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Billing system creates lag time between collecting waste and receiving payment for the service
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater implementation costs if purchase, inventory and distribution of cans is required
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collection time greater than with bag systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alternate system needed for collection of bulky items

1. A can subscription system would work in our town because:
2. The disadvantages of a can subscription system to our town would be:
3. Based on this evaluation of the pros and cons, a can subscription system is/is not the best choice for our town.

Is best choice _____ Is not best choice _____